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Lassen County Pesticide Regulatory Program 2007/2008 Performance Evaluation Report

**California Environmental Protection Agency
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Performance Evaluation of the Lassen County Agricultural Commissioner Pesticide Use Enforcement Program

This report provides a performance evaluation of Lassen County Agricultural Commissioner's (CAC's) pesticide use enforcement (PUE) program for the fiscal year 2007-2008. The assessment evaluates the performance of goals identified in the CAC's enforcement work plan as well as the program's adherence to Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) standards as described in the Pesticide Use Enforcement Standards Compendium.

I. Summary Report of Core Program Elements

A) Restricted Materials Permitting:

The restricted materials permitting program element was found to meet DPR standards and work plan goals.

B) Compliance Monitoring:

The compliance monitoring program element was found to meet DPR standards and work plan goals.

C) Enforcement Response:

The enforcement response program element was found to meet DPR standards and work plan goals.

Summary Statement:

Lassen CAC's pesticide use enforcement program is currently effective.

January 2008, Jim Donnelly was hired as the new Lassen County Agricultural Commissioner.

II. Assessment of Core Program Effectiveness and Work Plan Goals

A) Restricted Materials Permitting:

1) Permit Issuance – Effective

The Lassen CAC's permit issuance procedures and performance were evaluated through observation and interviews of relevant staff and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. The deputy and biologist that issue permits all possess Pesticide Regulations and Investigation and Environmental Monitoring licenses.

The DPR evaluation determined that permits are:

- Issued only to qualified applicants;
- Signed by authorized persons;
- Issued for time periods allowed by law;
- Permit amendments follow approved procedures.

2) Site Evaluation – Effective

The Lassen CAC's site evaluation procedures were evaluated through record review, and interviews of relevant staff and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. The CAC issued 200 agricultural permits during the year.

The permits:

- Contained the necessary information;
- Identified treatment areas and sensitive areas that could be adversely impacted by the permitted uses;
- Identified mitigation measures and included conditions that addressed known hazards.

The CAC's staff adequately evaluated permits and determined if the use of feasible alternatives was required. The program reviews all NOI's in a timely manner and adequately monitored agricultural and nonagricultural permits utilizing pre- application site evaluations and use monitoring inspections.

B) Compliance Monitoring:

1) Inspections – Effective

The Lassen CAC's permit inspection procedures were evaluated through record review and interviews of relevant staff and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. The deputy and biologist both possess Pesticide Regulations and Investigation and Environmental Monitoring licenses perform inspections.

Inspections are performed according to the inspection strategy documented in the CAC's enforcement work plan. Inspections are performed according to DPR policies and procedures and inspections reports are complete and comprehensive. The inspections adequately provide the information necessary to successfully prosecute violations. Inspections performed by the CAC were found to:

- Adequately address label, law and regulatory requirements;
- Include interviews of employers and employees as appropriate;
- Adequately document violations;
- Include appropriate follow-up inspections and procedures.

2) Investigations – Effective

The Lassen CAC's investigation procedures and performance were evaluated through observation, record review, and interviews of relevant staff and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. The CAC investigates all complaints and complete their reports in a timely manner.

Investigations are thorough and complete and submitted on approved forms and in the approved format. The CAC refers and or notifies DPR and other agencies as required. The investigations document violations and the CAC collects evidence according to DPR standards. The investigations adequately provide the information necessary to successfully prosecute violations.

C) Enforcement Response: - Effective

The Lassen CAC's enforcement response was evaluated through observation, record review, and interviews of relevant staff and found to conform to DPR standards and expectations. Since, there were no violations documented, enforcement response was not implemented for the 2007/2008 year.

III. Recommended Corrective Actions

No corrective actions are currently needed.

IV. Non-Core and Desirable Activities

- The Lassen CAC's conducts an annual continuing education course, as well as participates in various other grower and industry training sessions.